

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objects to the Abstract because it appears to be copied directly from the claim language. In response, the Abstract has been rewritten. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn. A clean copy of the substitute Abstract is provided on a separate sheet for the convenience of the Examiner.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,229 to Martinez et al. (hereinafter "Martinez") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738 to Call (hereinafter "Call").

In response, independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 have been amended to recite a registration requesting function and related details. Dependent claims 2-9 have been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. The amendments to independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 are fully supported in the original disclosure, particularly in the Specification at paragraphs [0040], [0042], [0045], and [0046] and in the drawings at Step 4 of Figure 5, Step 9 of Figure 6, Step 12 of Figure 5, and Figure 12. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the amendment to independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 20.

The system of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 20 attracts many users by offering summary information of a product, and then automatically selects likely buyers from users who have viewed the summary information. Since the user who desires more detailed product information may also be a good likely buyer, the system can automatically find such a likely buyer by accepting a request for detailed product information. The system requires a user to register as a member as a condition for offering detailed product

information. Since the registration requires input of user data, this contributes greatly to acquire and accumulate precious user data that can be used in later sales activities. The Martinez and Call references cited by the examiner do not teach or suggest such features.

Independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 20, as amended, are not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Martinez patent nor the Call patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a system, method, or computer program product having the features described above. Accordingly, claims 1, 10, 19, and 20, as amended, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-9 and 11-18, being dependent upon claims 1 and 10, are thus allowable therewith. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Furthermore, claims 6 and 15 have been amended to improve their form and readability and to conform to current U.S. practice. No new matter has been entered into the disclosure in doing so.

Lastly, new claims 21-24 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 21-24 are fully supported in the original disclosure, particularly at paragraphs [0034] and [0052-0055] of the specification, steps 51-57 of Figure 11, and step 34 in Figure 9. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 21-24. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21-24 are at least allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference

with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Spinelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosure (Substitute Abstract Of The Disclosure)

SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information offering system is provided that offers summary information of a product to a user who can access the information offering system through a communication line. When the user needs detailed information, the system invites the user to register as a member and asks to send user data. The user data is used for selection of a proper user in later sales activities.